AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (Currently amended):   A method of inhibiting the ~~onset or~~ progression of a disease characterized by neural degeneration in a mammal, said method comprising:

administering to a mammal having said disease, an agent that binds or chelates free iron in an amount sufficient to reduce ~~reducing~~ free iron levels in a neural tissue of ~~a~~ said mammal ~~having or at risk for a disease characterized by neural degeneration~~.

Claim 20 (Original):   The method of claim 19, wherein said disease is Parkinson's disease.

Claim 21 (Canceled).

Claim 22 (Currently amended):   The method of claim ~~21~~19, wherein said agent is an iron-chelating small organic molecule.

Claim 23 (Currently amended):   The method of claim 22, wherein said iron-chelating molecule is a molecule selected from the group consisting of clioquinol, deferiprone, desferrioxamine, and pseudan~~, and derivatives thereof~~.

Claims 24-29 (Canceled).

Claim 30 (Original):   The method of claim 19, wherein said mammal is a human.

Claim 31 (Original):   The method of claim 30, wherein said mammal is a human diagnosed as having or at risk for Parkinson's disease.

Claim 32 (Original):   The method of claim 19, wherein said mammal is a non-human mammal.

Claim 33 (Original):   The method of claim 19, wherein said neural tissue is brain tissue.

Claim 34 (Original):   The method of claim 19, wherein said inhibiting neural degeneration comprises reducing dopaminergic cell loss.

Claim 35 (Currently amended):   A method of mitigating one or more symptoms of a disease characterized by neural degeneration in a mammal, said method comprising administering to ~~said~~ a mammal <u>having said disease</u> an agent that causes the sequestration or chelation of free iron in said mammal in an amount <u>sufficient reduce free-iron levels in a neural tissue of said mammal and thereby</u> to mitigate one or more symptoms of said disease.

Claim 36 (Original):   The method of claim 35, wherein said disease is Parkinson's disease.

Claim 37 (Original):   The method of claim 35, wherein said administering comprises administering an iron chelator to said mammal.

Claim 38 (Currently amended):   The method of claim 37, wherein said iron-chelator is a molecule selected from the group consisting of clioquinol, deferiprone, desferrioxamine, <u>and</u> pseudan~~, and~~ ~~derivatives thereof~~.

Claim 39-45 (Canceled).

Claim 46 (Currently amended)   The method of claim ~~19~~<u>35</u> wherein said mammal is a human.

Claim 47 (Currently amended):   The method of claim ~~19~~<u>35</u>, wherein said mammal is a human diagnosed as having or at risk for Parkinson's disease.

Claim 48 (Currently amended):   The method of claim ~~19~~<u>35</u>, wherein said mammal is a non-human mammal.

Claim 49 (Currently amended):   The method of claim ~~19~~<u>35</u>, wherein said neural tissue is brain tissue.

Claim 50 (Currently amended):   The method of claim ~~19~~<u>35</u>, wherein said inhibiting neural degeneration comprises reducing dopaminergic cell loss.

Claim 51-93 (Canceled).